

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated October 24, 2003, which had a shortened statutory period set to expire January 24, 2004. A request of an extension of 3 months is provided herein, thereby extending the time of response to April 24, 2004.

Claim 12 recites in part,

determining a constrained recognition grammar to recognize a subset of spoken utterances, wherein the subset comprises each spoken utterance of the set that has an associated alphanumeric string identifier that maps to a DTMF sequence that is equivalent to the DTMF key sequence; ...

in response to receiving the voice input over the telephone interface, processing the voice input against the constrained recognition grammar to determine a matching element of the subset.

Applicants respectfully submit that Perera fails to disclose or suggest these limitations.

Specifically, the Office Action cites Figure 4 as teaching the determining limitation. Figure 4 teaches a method of using DTMF signals to generate a word trellis. Col. 5, lines 5-67. Thus, Perera teaches nothing regarding a constrained recognition grammar to recognize a subset of spoken utterances.

The Office Action cites col. 11, lines 25-60 as teaching the receiving limitation. To provide an appropriate context, Applicants have also considered col. 11, lines 5-25. These passages teach that if a message cannot be determined using DTMF signals that the caller can be asked to speak a position number for each incorrect candidate word. These spoken words are recorded for later analysis by an operator. Therefore, Perera teaches nothing regarding processing the voice input against the

constrained recognition grammar to determine a matching element of the subset.

Because Perera fails to disclose or suggest the recited limitations, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 12.

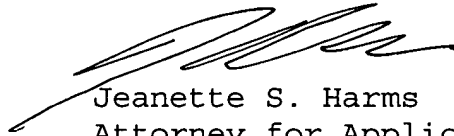
CONCLUSION

Claim 12 is pending in the present Application. Applicants respectfully request allowance of this claim.

If there are any questions, please telephone the undersigned at 408-451-5907 to expedite prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Customer No.: 24488


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST CLASS MAIL in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 21, 2004.

4/21/2004 Rebecca A. Baumann
Date Signature: Rebecca A. Baumann